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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,261	10/31/2003	Kazuo Okada	SHO-0056	9217
23353 7590 12/10/2007 RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER PANDYA, SUNIT	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,261

Applicant(s)

OKADA, KAZUO

Examiner

Sunit Pandya

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/17/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (US Patent Publication 20050192090).

Claims 1, 4: Muir et al. discloses of a gaming machine comprising a cabinet (figure 1), a decoration panel disposed on the front of the said cabinet (figure 1), a display device including a mask panel having a plurality of display windows provided through the display device mounted on the front of the cabinet and adjacent to the decoration panel (figure 1 and figure 8), a plurality of rotary

reels operative to rotate about a common axis inside the cabinet (figure 8), wherein each reels has plurality of symbols disposed on them (0041) and the symbols are visible through the display window (figures 8). Muir et al. also discloses a light source disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the decoration panel, and the light source extending longitudinally along an axis and including an elongated illuminating lamp and an elongated reflection plate positioned adjacent to the illuminating lamp, for illuminating the decorating panel (0061, 0063-0066). Muir et al. also discloses of atleast one light source unit disposed apart from the window and longitudinally contact the imaginary plane (figure 8), and the illuminating device is arranged so that the symbols are directly illuminated (0066).

Claim 2: Muir et al. discloses of gaming machine wherein transparent liquid crystal device is provided in front of the rotary reels (0048-0049).

Claim 3: Muir et al. discloses of a gaming machine comprising a cabinet (figure 1), multiple decoration panels disposed on the front of the said cabinet (figure 1, figures 3-4, element 20 is a button panel and the screen is a touch screen which can be utilized as additional decorative panel), a display window on the front of the cabinet (figure 8), a plurality of rotating reels operative to rotate about a common axis inside the cabinet (figures 1 & 8), wherein each reels has plurality of symbols disposed on them (0041) and the symbols are visible through the display window (figure 8). Muir et al. also discloses multiple light sources for illuminating the decorating panel and a reflection unit/plate to guide light emitted from the light source to illuminate the symbols by reflecting

the light source from the plate (figure 8, element 86 are multiple light sources). Muir et al. also discloses of a masked panel disposed between light sources, begin disposed apart from the display window and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane (figure 8, 0066), the light sources are disposed such that the symbols are directly illuminated.

Claims 5, 6: Muir et al. discloses of locating the illuminating unit between the display and the reflective unit, wherein the light emitted from the light source illuminates the reels (figure 8).

Claim 7: Muir et al. discloses of one of the light source, which could be utilized to illuminate the light source (0066) and a reflective unit which is disclosed between a light source and the display and thus the reflective unit does not block the light but enhances the light reflected off of its surface (figure 8)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunit Pandya whose telephone number is 571-272-2823. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The


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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SP



Robert Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
3714